

**LAYING CHIEF STONES.**—On 24th ult., the first stone of an asylum for decayed merchants of London, to be called Stansted College, was laid at Rowland Castle, by Mr. Dixon, of Stansted, at whose cost the edifice, which is to be in the Elizabethan style, and to cost 5,000*l.*, is to be built and supported.

—The foundation stone of St. Edmund's Church, Northampton, was to be laid on Monday last. —At Moxley, Wednesday, on Friday in last week, the foundation stone of a new district church was laid by Lady Emily Foley. —Mr. Myers, the builder of the monastery to be erected at Rugby, is already having the foundations dug out. The work it is said will last two years; this building being designed to be on a very extensive scale. —The foundation stone of a new Catholic church is to be laid at Hartlepool in course of this present month. —On Wednesday week, the foundation stone of a new Catholic chapel and school room was laid at Upton-on-Severn, when high mass was performed. The stone contained a coin of the Pope's, beside those of the sovereign of the realm. —The first stone of a new church at Blendworth, in Hampshire, was laid by Lady Knighton on the 20th of last month. It is in the Decorated style, with nave, chancel, and south aisle, with a tower occupying the east end of the aisle, which will form an object from the roads which meet in front of it, and from the sea at a little distance. The material is stone and flint, and the whole is to be carried out consistently with church architecture, with stone piers, arches, jamps, &c. The seats to be open. Messrs. W. J. and E. Habershon are the architects.

**LIVERPOOL ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.**—At a meeting, on Wednesday evening, a letter was read from Mr. H. P. Horner, requesting the architects of the town gratuitously to assist in making a model of the docks of the port for the Great Industrial Exhibition. The model would be on the scale of 8 feet to the mile, and architects would facilitate the work by sketching, colouring, and afterwards transferring to the model, blocks of particular buildings. These would be pasted on the wood and cut out afterwards by paid assistants. Mr. Reed, the secretary, then read the report for the past year, enumerating the papers which had been read, and stated that the increase of associate and student members during the session was very gratifying. It was announced that Chester had been fixed upon as the place to be visited in the society's annual excursion this summer. Mr. Picton was chosen president for next year, and Messrs. Charles Barber and Arthur Holme, vice-presidents.

**BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.**—At the meeting on April 24th, 1850, Mr. J. Heywood, M.P., in the chair, after numerous interesting exhibitions, papers were read from Rev. Mr. Massey, of Chester, on a pavement of encaustic tiles found during excavations in that city, also some further information respecting the supposed Roman sewers there; by Mr. Planché, on the origin of certain armorial charges, in which he showed that interesting historical and genealogical facts may be substituted for the wild legends and absurd reasons invented to account for their assumption. The meeting terminated by the reading of a paper, by Mr. L. Jewett, on extensive Roman remains found at Headington, near Oxford. The buildings are protected on one side by a rampart and ditch, and several Roman roads are to be found in this district. The annual congress will be held at Manchester and Lancaster in the beginning of August next, under particularly favourable circumstances.

**THE NAIL TRADE.**—As already noted, several nail masters in Dudley and the neighbourhood have given notice of a drop of 10 per cent. in the wages of their workmen. The cause assigned for the proposed reduction is the difficulty which the masters experience in competing with those manufacturers who pay their workmen in truck, and who are thus enabled to undersell the fair dealer. It would be much more rational and just if these masters, instead of lowering their workmen to the level of the truck manufacturers, would unite with those who are now engaged in suppressing a system so destructive of all fair and honourable competition, and injurious to the interests of the workmen.

**PROJECTED WORKS.**—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 18th inst., for building a warehouse at the Isle of Dogs, —Mr. Moon, of No. 1, Millman-street, Bedford-row, architect; by 28th, for the enlargement of a chapel at Stockwell-green, Surrey, —Mr. James Wilson, 16, Bridge-street, Westminster, architect; by 27th, for the erection of a pauper infantic asylum for Hampshire, —Mr. Harris, of Hanwell, Middlesex, architect; by 21st, for works in making a drain with branch drains, &c., in the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, —by 30th, for works in refloating water wheel and repairing wharf at Waltham Abbey and Enfield, —and by 30th, for the erection of works and buildings at Gros-Nex, Alderney, —all for the Ordnance, as advertised; by 1st June, for supplying and fixing gas fittings for the new borough prisons at Devonport, as advertised; by 3rd, for the erection of booking offices, waiting rooms, engine shed, roof walls, platform, and other works, at the London-bridge new station of the Brighton and South Coast Railway, —Mr. R. J. Hood, engineer to the Company; by 24th inst., for the erection of school rooms, master's house, and premises, at Spitalfields, —Mr. J. Harrison, of 34, Moorgate-street, architect; by 29th, for the erection of a workhouse near Tredegar, Monmouthshire, Mr. D. J. Humphris, of Cheltenham, architect; by 15th, for a supply of British iron for the East-India Company; by 15th, for the remanufacture of 2,500 tons of old iron rails, or supply of new, for the York and North Midland Railway, at York, —Mr. T. Cabry, of York, engineer; by 18th, for the erection of a toll house at Witcham, for the Fen office, Ely; by 11th, for the erection of a new aisle to the parish church of Roade, —Mr. E. F. Law, of Northampton, architect; and by 18th, for restoring the chancel of Chelveston Church, near Higham Ferrers, same architect.

**PAINTED OBITUARY WINDOW.**—A stained glass window has been erected at the east end of the south aisle of Worcester Cathedral, as an obituary memorial of the deceased lady of the Rev. Allen Wheeler, precentor of the cathedral. The old Perpendicular tracery of the window has been removed, and the window itself is now restored to its original form, namely, a triple lancet light. The design of the glass consists of a figure, nearly life size, and canopy, in each compartment; the centre one presents our Saviour, and the side lights the Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist. The glass was designed and executed by Mr. George Rogers, of Worcester.

**A SELF-ACTING SAW MILL.**—The *St. Louis Republican* gives an account of a saw mill, constructed on a new and singular principle. The inventor is Mr. Amos Jackson, of Portowatamie county, Iowa. The mill derives its power from the weight of the log to be sawed. The ways on which the carriage travels are fixed on bearings that enter into the frame: the opposite ends are provided with large segments of a cog-wheel working into a series of cog-wheels and pinions: thus when the log is pushed forward to the saw, its weight is brought to act with great force through the segments on a shaft having several intermediate gearings to increase the speed sufficiently for driving the crank shaft. The weight of saw logs being commonly six to eight thousand pounds, we may judge of the immense propelling power thus obtained: indeed the fear is that means will have to be used to check and regulate the velocity of the descending mass as the segment describes its arc. The toothed edge of Mr. Jackson's saw is made thick, and diminishes to the back, thus leaving all friction out of the question, and saving setting. The price of these mills will be light compared with others, and they can be attached to wheels for travelling through the country.

**"DESIGNS FOR COUNTRY CHURCHES."**—Under this title, Mr. Truefitt is preparing for publication twenty perspective views of designs for small and inexpensive churches. Such of the designs as we have seen promise very well. The work will appear in June.

**GEORGE THE THIRD'S STATUE, CHARING CROSS.**—Dear Editor, —Pray try your influence with the authorities to get the four lamp posts removed which mob poor old George III. at Cockspur-street, and if they would put two feet more of pedestal under him, he would rise with advantage. O. M.

**MOUNTAIN FARM HOUSES.**—"The flooring of some farm-houses we have entered has been composed of naked shelving rock; the deep-set windows often consisting of only a single pane; the chimney corners very roomy, suited for the winter's night, with peat fires on the hearth; and the chimneys tapering towards the top so as to exclude as far as possible the howling wind and driving mist; the walls formed of huge blocks of stone, with the interstices closely stopped with mortar, and in the humblest cottages with moss. But many houses and cottages are built of 'cobb' or argillaceous soil laid with rushes or straw, Plummery (*Hymra*), oat cakes (*bars ceirch*), and buttermilk, form the chief food of these frugal people, whose average longevity is great, thanks to simple diet and pure air." —*Cliffe's Book of North Wales.*

**HOW AXES ARE MADE.**—The process has been greatly simplified within the last two years. The iron is rolled out into bars the proper width and thickness of an axe, and 6, 8, and 10 feet long; it is heated and cut off by a large pair of shears propelled by water power; another workman picks up the piece and places it between a die and punch, and the punch comes down and forces the hole for the handle by punching out a piece. An iron mandrill is then inserted into the hole, and it is immediately put under another press, which forms one side of the axe; it then goes into another die, and forms the other side, and is then placed in an upright position, and a chisel comes down and splits the "bit" of the axe ready for the steel: it is then thrown aside. All this is done at one heat, and in less time than it takes to write the *modus operandi*. The blade of the axe is then put in and welded, and passed along to the forger, tempered, and cast upon the ground to cool. As soon as cool it is taken up and planed down to an edge by a planing machine, and finished up with the emery wheels—painted, labelled, stamped, and ready for market.—*American Paper.*

**FARM ARCHITECTURE.**—The *North British Agriculturist* has been drawing the attention of its readers to the desirability of conferring something like an architectural character on farm buildings, and to the facility and cheapness with which this might be done.

**THE EXTRAMURAL INTERMENT BILL** giving power to railway companies to form cemeteries, was lost on second reading by 123 to 4.—The Government Bill is postponed for a few days.

**GRANITE FROM CHINA.**—The ship *Charlotte Jane*, arrived from Canton, has brought from that place 272 slabs of granite, as a portion of her cargo, consigned to order.

**THE CROWN GLASS TRADE** on the Tyne is said to be now completely paralyzed, only three out of twenty houses being in operation, and even these not fully employed.

#### TENDERS

For erecting Windsor terminus, and retiring-rooms for the Queen: Mr. W. Tate, F.R.S., architect:—

Bedborough .....	£8,810 0 0
Jay .....	7,592 0 0
Lee and Son .....	7,475 0 0
Piper and Co. ....	7,238 0 0
Grimesdell .....	6,984 0 0
Nicholson and Son .....	6,978 0 0

For parsonage house at Blendworth, Hants, advertised in last week's *BUILDER*: Messrs. Habershon, architects. Quantities supplied by the architects:—

Assiter, Maidstone .....	£1,978 10 0
Taylor, London .....	1,779 0 0
Ayles, Portsea .....	1,756 0 0
Moore and Knight, Havant .....	1,730 0 0
Heady, Portsmouth .....	1,698 0 0
Clarr, Farnbrook .....	1,679 0 0
Barton, London .....	1,483 0 0
Gover and Son, Winchester .....	1,400 0 0

The new church adjoining was commenced two or three weeks since. Tenders for the same, last July, were as follows:—

Piper, London .....	£3,223 0 0
Pink, Hambledon .....	3,100 0 0
Moore and Knight, Havant .....	3,050 0 0
Heady, Portsmouth .....	1,999 10 0
Assiter, Maidstone .....	1,678 9 8

For the Hope Chapel and Independent Schools at Newport, Monmouthshire: Messrs. Habershon, Architects. Quantities furnished:—

H. Watkins, Newport .....	£3,076 0 0
W. Griffiths, ditto .....	3,040 0 0
H. P. Bolt, ditto .....	3,000 0 0
P. Corlett, ditto .....	3,070 0 0
W. Hunt, ditto .....	2,771 0 0
Gos. Jayne, ditto .....	2,770 0 0
Benjamin James, ditto .....	2,764 0 0
Piper, London .....	2,534 0 0